



Journal

Mayor Bloomberg Announces NYCHA/DFTA Partnership At Woodson Houses In Brooklyn

By Eileen Elliott

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg joined New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman Tino Hernandez, Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago and City Council Member Tracy L. Boyland at the Rosetta Gaston Senior Center in Brooklyn's Carter G. Woodson Houses on July 17, 2003 to announce NYCHA's recent agreement with DFTA to fund 105 senior facilities and to launch a public service campaign for caregivers.

Under the agreement between NYCHA and DFTA, beginning at the start of the City's 2004 Fiscal Year (July), NYCHA will assume the financial responsibility for the 105 facilities and their programs. DFTA will continue to provide programmatic oversight to the community based organizations that directly provide the seniors with recreational activities, meals and other services.

According to Center Director Richard Clement, it was the first

time in history that a mayor came to visit the Rosetta Gaston Senior Center. In honor of the occasion, Senior Center and NYCHA Department of Community Operations staff put together an "International Food Festival" which followed the press conference, with no less than 20 countries represented through food or performance.

"We welcome him with open arms," said Council Member Boy-

(Continued on page 5)



PARTNERS Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (center) joined (left to right) NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, DFTA Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, and Wayside Baptist Church, Inc. Executive Director Harvey Stone (Sponsor) at the Rosetta Gaston Senior Center, which is located in NYCHA's Carter G. Woodson Houses in Brooklyn.

Inside:

- *Draft Agency Plan Public Hearing . . . page 2*
- *Nat'l. Night Out Against Crime page 3*
- *Self-Sufficiency Incentive Exclusion . . page 6*
- *26th Annual Senior Festival page 7*

GROUNDBREAKING FOR PROSPECT PLAZA TOWNHOUSES *Eligible NYCHA Residents Will Be Given Priority As Buyers*



BREAKING GROUND for resident home ownership in Brooklyn. Pictured here are (left to right) NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, NY State Senator John Sampson, Community Board 16 District Manager Viola D. Greene-Walker, Washington Mutual Bank Vice-President Matthew Schatz (partially hidden), State Assembly Member William F. Boyland, Jr., NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, City Council Member Tracy L. Boyland, Investment Analyst for Federal Home Loan Bank Peter Young (hidden), Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, former State Assembly Member Frank Boyland, Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott, NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello.

By Allan Leicht and John Escribano

Officially it was a groundbreaking ceremony for the Prospect Plaza Townhouses, but on July 30, 2003 eight new nearly completed townhouses already stood on Dean Street in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Priority in applying to purchase these new two-family homes will go to income-eligible NYCHA residents, with previous Prospect Plaza residents getting first consideration. The homes go on sale this fall and will be ready for occupancy starting in the spring of 2004.

Chairman Tino Hernandez delivered the keynote remarks at the groundbreaking for this first phase of the enormous \$148 million HOPE VI revitalization of Prospect Plaza Houses. A native of Brownsville himself, Mr. Hernandez recalled his boyhood and thanked Mayor Bloomberg, who was represented at the ceremony by Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott, for his leadership and commitment to the preservation and expansion of affordable housing in New York City. Mr. Hernandez told the gathering of over 100 that the NYCHA

residents who will live at Dean and Saratoga Streets will come, not as tenants, but as home owners.

"These are the first newly constructed home-ownership units ever built for public housing in New York City," the Chairman said. Mr. Hernandez expressed particular appreciation to Prospect Plaza Resident Association President Milton Bolton, who leads the Resident Advisory Committee, to the residents of Prospect Plaza and to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which pro-

vided the first \$21.4 million in HOPE VI funding for the project.

NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple served as Master of Ceremonies as government officials and private sector executives, community leaders, residents and guests gathered under a tent to mark what Deputy Mayor Walcott described as a "partnership creating opportunity." The Deputy Mayor praised the linkages among the various agencies, congratulating Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City

(Continued on page 4)



Celebrate Labor Day, September 1, 2003

Message From The Mayor

Making Sure New Yorkers Are Ready For Anything



From hurricanes and heat waves to power outages, New York City faces a variety of hazards. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is committed to educating New Yorkers about the hazards they face and the ways in which they can better prepare themselves.

To assist in this process, OEM has created, "Ready

New York: A Household Emergency Preparedness Guide" — the centerpiece of a broad household preparedness campaign — to distribute to the City's more than eight million residents, nearly half-a-million of whom live in public housing.

The Guide was created in collaboration with more than 20 government, private and non-profit entities and it is built on three guiding principles — what to have in your hand (a Go Bag), what to have in your home (an Emergency Supply Kit), what to have in your head (A Household Disaster Plan).

In an effort to better serve New York City's diverse population, the guide is available in several languages, including Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), English, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish.

All New Yorkers know that New York City works hard to prepare for emergencies. Our City government plans and drills regularly. Schools, non-profit organizations and businesses are also preparing. Although the City can respond to disasters, only you can prepare yourself and your household for emergencies.

The guide covers everything from weather disasters, fires, earthquakes, carbon monoxide, building collapses, explosions, radiation, hazardous materials, chemical spills, and terrorism. It contains information on evacuation procedures, disaster sheltering, sheltering in place and utilities disruptions. It also has additional information for parents and families, seniors and people with disabilities, pet owners and subway riders.

So, if you don't already have a "Ready New York" guide get one today. It's easy. If you haven't seen them in your development's management office or community center, you can get one by logging onto the City's web site at: www.nyc.gov; by calling the City's new non-emergency hotline for all City services, 3-1-1; or by stopping by your local library.

Remember, being ready makes you part of the solution!

Michael R. Bloomberg

In Memoriam City Council Member James Davis 1962-2003

Over 1,000 Turn Out For Public Hearing On Draft FY 2004 Agency Plan At the Brooklyn Marriott

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) held a Public Hearing on its Fiscal Year 2004 Draft Agency Plan at the New York Marriott, Brooklyn, on the evening of July 16, 2003. Elected officials, community leaders and residents addressed NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple and NYPD Housing Bureau Assistant Chief Thomas Purtell for two-and-a-half hours.

The Agency Plan, which will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) when finalized, is required by law and was created with the input of NYCHA's 54-member Resident Advisory Board or (RAB). The Plan sets out the Authority's major initiatives and objectives for the coming year. It was made available for public inspection beginning on May 30, 2003 and Town Hall meetings with NYCHA staff on hand to respond to comments were subsequently held in each borough.

Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence served as moderator for the evening. "This is not a final plan," Mr. Spence emphasized. "We want to hear your suggestions that will be incorporated in the plan." Speakers were limited to three minutes so that as many people as possible could be heard. Over 40 people spoke, including elected officials, and more than 1,000 people filled the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott to hear what they had to say.

The elected officials who expressed their views included State Senators Seymour Lachman, Kevin Parker and Velmanette Montgomery, Assembly Members Scott Stringer and Roger Green, and the late City Council Member James Davis. Representatives for NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr., Congress Member Nydia Velazquez, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and City Council Member Gale A. Brewer also spoke. In addition, NYCHA received written comments from Congress Member Jerrold Nadler, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, and City Council Members Christine C. Quinn, Helen Sears, Margarita Lopez and Alan J. Gerson

Rent

The Draft Agency Plan for 2004 states that NYCHA will not raise ceiling/flat rents at this time, although it also notes NYCHA's concerns about maintaining basic core services at all developments given the Authority's current fiscal situation. By law, families residing in public housing may not be required to pay more than 30% of their adjusted monthly income towards rent. NYCHA's decision not to raise rents in 2004 was met with approval by all speakers who addressed the issue.

Community Service

Nearly everyone who came to the microphones addressed the Community Service requirement, which is now law. Community Service is a federal, unfunded mandate that applies only to residents of public housing. The requirement is that each adult public housing resident not determined to be eligible for an exemption, provide eight hours of monthly service as a condition of his or her tenancy.

In the FY2004 Draft Agency Plan NYCHA proposes nearly 20 categories of exemptions. These include individuals who are under 18 years of age or older than 62; members of a family receiving welfare who are in compliance with the welfare program; individuals who are employed; and individuals who are engaged in a number of educational and job training endeavors.

Although many elected officials and residents alike acknowledged that NYCHA has no choice but to implement the requirement, nearly all asked the Housing Authority to expand its list of exemptions even further.

Section 3 and Resident Employment

Under Section 3, NYCHA encourages resident hiring on federally funded construction and professional service contracts be-

tween \$100,000 and \$500,000. As stated in the Draft Agency Plan, from 1994 through 2000, there have been approximately 5,000 Section 3 hires by NYCHA contractors. NYCHA's Resident Employment Program, which goes beyond the Section 3 requirement, mandates that 15% of the labor costs of major construction contracts be expended for resident hiring, provided jobs for another 400 residents between January 2001 and April 2003.

In order to improve the overall quality and timeliness of work in NYCHA developments as well as to increase the number of residents hired under Section 3, NYCHA has created the CM/Build Program. This program will make use of construction management companies for approximately half of NYCHA's capital portfolio. Each "CM" is required to create a pre-qualified bidders list, and bidders will be required to participate in state-approved apprenticeship programs. NYCHA's hope is that this component of the CM/Build Program will foster long-term employment opportunities for residents.

Lovene Chambers, a representative of the coalition of unions, residents and other activists, known as T.R.A.D.E.S., was among a number of speakers who praised NYCHA for the creation

(Continued on page 3)

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Message From The Chairman

Coming Out Against Crime During National Night Out



On August 5, 2003, it was my pleasure to join Police Service Area #5, the residents of Carver Houses and their neighbors in East Harlem, including residents from a number of NYCHA developments for the 20th National Night Out Against Crime. Here in New York City, just about all major City, State and federal agencies, as well as many community organizations participated in this one day event. In addition to providing the community with a wealth

of information on crime and safety, National Night Out also gave NYCHA residents an opportunity to get to know many of the police officers from their local Police Service Areas. The event celebrated the tremendous success of the NYPD and the community in reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life not only in NYCHA neighborhoods, but throughout the City.

The National Night Out Against Crime was created by a small group in Pennsylvania called National Town Watch twenty years ago to show criminals that law-abiding citizens were not afraid of them. It is now celebrated in communities throughout the U.S.

I hope that many of you had an opportunity to attend National Night Out Against Crime events in your neighborhoods. NYCHA always celebrates the Night Out Against Crime in a big way. In addition to Carver Houses and Wise Towers in Manhattan, this year, Night Out was observed at Boulevard, Marlboro and Sumner Houses in Brooklyn, at Queensbridge Houses in Queens and at Monterey Houses and Eagle/Site 402 in the Bronx. The Mayor's Communications Director William Cunningham attended the PSA#4 event on the Lower East Side. NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple and Secretary Frank Marin, all came out to show their support. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg sent proclamations which were presented to each Police Service Area, paying tribute to the work they do.

Together, police officers, NYCHA residents and staff, and the larger communities joined together to send a resounding message — criminal behavior will not be tolerated!

At Carver Houses, I also had the opportunity to publicly welcome the newly appointed Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe. Chief Jaffe was promoted to her new position on August 1, 2003 at a ceremony at One Police Plaza. As noted by Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, Chief Jaffe's promotion is historic — she is now the highest-ranking female police officer in NYPD history. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to Chief Jaffe for this prestigious honor, as well as congratulations on behalf of the nearly half-a-million residents of public housing in this City that she has been entrusted to protect.

I'd also like to extend my special thanks to former Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler for the work he has done since he became Housing Bureau Police Chief in 1999, and congratulate him on his promotion to Chief of Organized Crime Control. Under Chief Zeigler's command the Housing Bureau dramatically expanded its use of Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV's), which are currently operated in 15 NYCHA developments.

Despite the threat of terrorism and budget constraints, the NYPD brought crime down to record lows last year. New York City ranked safest among the ten largest cities in the U.S. on the FBI's overall crime index for 2002. Crime also continued to drop in NYCHA developments during the first five months of 2003 as compared to the first five months of 2002 by 3.7%.

But we can't rest on our laurels. As Mayor Bloomberg's proclamation states, "National Night Out serves to reinforce our commitment to ensure that New York remains the safest large city in the nation." Let's keep working together to ensure that criminals lose and neighborhoods win!

Tino Hernandez

Public Hearing

(Continued from page 2)

of CM/Build. Mr. Chambers stated, "A year ago, I challenged the Housing Authority to develop an apprenticeship program so that residents can become carpenters and painters. This is a challenge they seem to have met. I commend you and thank you."

Victims Of Domestic Violence

There were a number of speakers from organizations representing victims of domestic violence: VOW, or Voices Of Women, the Coalition of Domestic Violence Survivors and the Battered Women's Resource Center.

Most applauded NYCHA for making domestic violence a priority in allocating housing and for changing its policy so that victims can choose the borough they wish to move to. However, many also asked NYCHA to reconsider the documentation requirements for Section 8 or for Section 8 and public housing transfers because many victims are unable to provide this documentation. NYCHA requires an Order of Protection and a police report.

Block Grant And SuperWaiver

The President's 2004 budget proposal includes a provision that removes the Section 8 leased housing program from local control and block grants it to the states. NYCHA opposes the measure since it would result in a potential loss of vouchers and further reductions in funding.

Maizie Torres, a TA President for a Project Based Section 8 building, urged all Section 8 residents to write to Congress to oppose the Block Grant proposal which, she said, "would have a devastating impact." She commended NYCHA for coming out against the proposal to block grant the Section 8 program.

In one of the most dramatic moments of the evening, NY-CPHRA (New York City Public Housing Resident Alliance) Executive Director and Manhattan's Johnson Houses TA President Ethel Velez presented NYCHA with over 2,000 petitions, neatly tied together in bundles with bright red ribbon.

The letters, which are on NY-CPHRA letterhead, were addressed to U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary R. Clinton, and ask them to eliminate the SuperWaiver provision of the Welfare Reauthorization Bill, which was passed by the House in 2002.

(Continued on page 6)



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

New Release—The next song you hear on the radio may be unfamiliar but if you keep listening you just might recognize the voice. That is, if you are a resident of Millbrook Houses in the Bronx, like Eddie Cabrea, or a friend of his. Eddie Cabrea's very first CD was released on August 12, 2003, by the recording label "TimezRite Music." Eddie's CD, entitled, "The Arrival" contains 11 songs. Most of the songs are R&B and the others are a blend of Latin and Hip Hop that could make him a music icon not only for his neighbors at Millbrook Houses but to music lovers everywhere. According to a TimezRite Music press release, Eddie Cabrea is "Latin America's own Luther Vandross." Eddie says he is no amateur when it comes to music. He founded and started singing with the group Q & A when he was a teenager, performing at the Black Expo, the Apollo Theatre and at community events throughout the City. Q & A was a hit. But Eddie decided it was best to go solo and began performing at nightclubs in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. Some of his major achievements came when he performed at the Latin Music Hall of Fame Awards and at the South Street Seaport. "The music industry is hard. I have been at this since 1990 and if I hadn't convinced Noel Lawrence, CEO of TimezRite Music, that I have what it takes to become a success, I believe I would still only be dreaming of recording my first CD," said a grateful Mr. Cabrea. The CD "The Arrival" features songs such as "I Let Her Ride," (English and Spanish versions) and "Where You At?" Residents at Millbrook Houses are so excited and proud of Eddie's success that they held an event on August 9, 2003 to promote the CD. *Eddie, congratulations on your new release! I hope this CD brings you all the fame and recognition in the music industry that you deserve. Keep your voice intact and those recording studios busy and maybe one day you will become a household name.*

One Hero Remembers Another—"Thank God it's over!" were the words spoken when I asked Ms. Carmen Santiago of the Monroe Houses in the Bronx how she felt now that her son Rafael Rodriguez has returned from Kuwait. Ms. Santiago remembers how she felt on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2002, when Rafael left his position at the New York City Housing Authority's Mott Haven Houses, also in the Bronx, as Supervisor of Caretakers and headed for Kuwait. "It was terrible for my entire family—he's my only son—and it was even harder on Rafael's eight-year-old son. We knew Rafael was leaving to fight for his country and that that was something he strongly believed in, but we were afraid for him. My biggest fear was that he would become a prisoner of war," said Ms. Santiago. As I listened to Ms. Santiago I could still hear the anxiety in her voice. "I couldn't sleep at night especially during the month I didn't hear from him—that's when I became severely depressed. I had to stay away from the television—no more watching the news. My son is a hero but I tell him, 'Rafael, please don't enlist again for anything!'" On July 23, 2003 Rafael boarded an aircraft and headed for the United States. After a 16 hour flight he landed safely on American soil at Fort Dix in New Jersey, the following day. While in Kuwait with everything that was going on around him, Rafael remembered the promise he had made to the family of his Godmother's best friend who lost their son on 9/11. He wore the name with honor and pride on his helmet. It reads, "Dominic Peluzzo—a Port Authority Police Officer killed saving the lives of others during the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11." "I promised the family I would take Dominic with me spiritually and fight in honor of his name," said Rafael. He also remembers the days he spent in Kuwait as clearly as the photo of Dominic Peluzzo that he carries in his wallet. He remains on military leave until August 24, 2003, and then he will return to reserve duty and probably to his employment at NYCHA. *Mr. Rodriguez you are truly a brave and admirable person. It's inspiring to know that you carry the memory of your friend with you. I'm sure if he could, he would say, "Thank you for being such a thoughtful and good friend to my family." Welcome Home!*

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on June 26, 2002, and July 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2002. **Remember, if you see any of these persons on Housing Authority property, please call your Management Office or the Police! This list is provided to all Police Service Areas.**

Prohibited as of June 26, 2002

Nelson Rolon Case 2612/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 38-48 Rutgers Street, Rutgers Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of July 3, 2002

William Rosario Case 1770/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 77 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.

Michael Jackson Case 2644/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 2085 Rockaway Parkway, Bay View Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Burwell Case 2718/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 1020 Trinity Avenue, Forest Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of July 10, 2002

Louis Medina Case 2832/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 805 Taylor Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Tyrone Taylor Case 1965/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 335 Beach 54th Street, Ocean Bay Apartments, Far Rockaway.

Tyrone Johnson Case 2887/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1440 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Yusef Mason Case 2900/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 124 Humboldt Street, Borinquen Plaza II Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 17, 2002

Jerome Hughes Case 1744/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 1420 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Alfredo Rodriguez Case 3021/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 530 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.

David Walton Case 2936/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 70 Lenox Avenue, King Towers, Manhattan.

Carver Marshall Case 4934/00 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 383 Livonia Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.

Mark Green Case 2977/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 54-81 Almeda Avenue, Ocean Bay Apartments, Far Rockaway.

Alexis Fontanez Case 2978/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 320 East 115th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.

Malik Glenn Case 3034/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 41-11 12th Street, Queensbridge South Houses, Long Island City.

Prohibited as of July 24, 2002

Karim Edwards Case 3169/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 103 Nostrand Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.

TOWNHOUSES

(Continued from page 1)

Council Member Tracy L. Boyland, former State Assembly Member Frank Boyland and State Assembly Member William Boyland, Jr., all of whom were responsible for obtaining city and state funding that helped support the revitalization. Mr. Walcott made special mention of the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development and First Deputy Commissioner John Warren for contributing the land on which these new homes will stand.

Each townhouse is composed of two units. The upper two stories are a duplex for the owner, with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a dining room, a family room and a laundry room. The townhouses will feature brick masonry fronts, bay windows, oak hardwood flooring, wall-to-wall carpet, private backyards and private off-street parking space for owners. The ground floor of each house is a two bedroom rental unit, with rent paid to the owner of the townhouse.

Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz extolled the virtues of home ownership. "I have been a tenant all my life," said Mr. Markowitz, "but I know that the only thing that is real is real estate. This is where the future of Brooklyn is going to be written." The Borough President paid tribute to the Boylands, whose public service and dedication to their community, he said, would continue to be instrumental in building that future.

When the entire HOPE VI revitalization is complete Prospect Plaza Houses will contain 615 dwelling units: 323 public housing units, 255 mixed-income housing rental units, and the 37 homeowner units, for which this groundbreaking was held.

OCEAN BAY (At right) On July 8, 2003, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (left) took State Senator Malcolm A. Smith on a tour of the Ocean Bay Apartments, formerly named Arverne and Edgemere Houses, in Queens. Like Prospect Plaza (see article above), Ocean Bay is also a HOPE VI project, with the overall goal of physically and economically revitalizing the area. The completed project will include the renovation of an existing shopping plaza, the construction of a new 33,000-square-foot recreation center and an expansion of the day care center. Ninety percent of the 1,803 apartments that are being renovated have been completed, and of these 1,227 are currently occupied.



PHASE III The photo above shows the preliminary design for Phase III of the Prospect Plaza project which will include retail space, a multi-purpose center and approximately 80 apartment rental units.

Phase II of the project includes the construction of 138 rental units in three- or four-story buildings on City-owned land adjacent to the existing Prospect Plaza Houses. Eighty-three units will be leased to public housing households, and 55 units will be leased to mixed-income housing households earning up to 60% of the area median income.

Phase III is the substantial rehabilitation of the remaining Prospect Houses buildings and includes the construction of a new six-story building that will have retail space and approximately 80 apartment units with a multi-purpose community center, which will encompass a day care center, a recreation center, a business incubator, and a new community park. Final completion for the construction of all phases of this project is expected by the end of 2005.

The developer for the first

phase, the townhouses, is the non-profit Settlement Housing Fund, Inc. Executive Director Carol Lamberg told the gathering that she had become so personally involved that she has taken to visiting the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where the pre-fabricated townhouses are constructed, to watch them being moved out one by one and transported the five or six miles to their foundations on the site. Ms. Lambert thanked the Washington Mutual Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank for the construction loans that made the project possible. Thanks also went to the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal which provided significant funding.

The Chairman publicly thanked NYCHA's Department of Housing Finance and Development under Director Sharon Ebert for coordinating and planning the entire HOPE VI undertaking for the Housing Authority.

How You Can Apply

Thirty-two of the total of 37 townhouses are for NYCHA residents exclusively. **To request an application, please mail a postcard to Prospect Plaza Townhouses, PMB 484, 331 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Requests must be postmarked by September 12, 2003 and the applications will be selected by lottery.**



New York City Launches Responsible Pet Ownership Campaign

New Yorkers are streaming into the parks and onto sidewalks with their dogs. To help ensure the health and safety of pets and residents, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), along with its sister agencies and community partners, is raising awareness about responsible pet ownership. The campaign kicked off earlier this summer with a focus on the importance of licensing in reuniting lost dogs with their owners. NYC pet owners are encouraged to be responsible by following the regulations and suggestions listed below.

License: Avoid a \$200 fine! Have your dog licensed and renew annually. Call 3-1-1 for a dog license application or get one from nyc.gov/health or from your local pet shop or veterinarian. State Law requires all dogs to be licensed and the NYC Health Code requires dogs in public to have a license tag attached to their collar.

Leash: Control your dog with a leash in public places. The NYC Health Code requires dogs in public places to be restrained by a leash or chain not more than six feet long.

Vaccinate: Keep your dog's and cat's vaccinations, especially rabies, up to date. The NYC Health Code requires all dogs and cats 3 months of age and older to receive a primary vaccination against the disease of rabies, and receive re-vaccinations or booster vaccinations.

Don't Litter: Pick up after your dog and don't allow your animals to create nuisance conditions. NY State Public Health Law requires owners to clean up after their dogs in public areas and NYC Health Codes prohibit creating or allowing nuisance conditions to exist.

Prevent Bites: Avoid situations that may result in your pet biting someone.

Spay/Neuter: Spay/neuter your pet to control the over-population of unwanted puppies and kittens. All NYCHA cats and dogs three months of age or older must be spayed or neutered.

Especially For NYCHA Residents

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents should keep in mind that in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, they are permitted to have either one dog or one cat per apartment. The dog's weight, based on the projected full-grown adult weight as determined by a veterinarian, may not exceed 40 pounds.

Registration: All NYCHA residents must register their pets with their management office. Registration may take place at any time during the year, but residents are required to register their pets at their next regular Annual Income Review. A one-time, non-refundable pet registration fee of \$25.00 will be charged. This pet registration fee is not charged to pet owners who reside in senior citizen developments or senior citizen buildings; the pet registration fee is not charged to any NYCHA resident who acquires or maintains a verified service animal.

Grandparent Clause: Please note that NYCHA residents who owned cats and dogs prior to May 1, 2002, when NYCHA's pet ownership policy was revised, may keep those pets, even if they exceed the one-pet-per-apartment limit and the 40-pound weight limit. However, they must be registered. When registering their pets with NYCHA, residents must be able to verify that the additional dogs or cats were owned before May 1, 2002. These pets may not be replaced and this "grandparent clause" does not apply to new public housing residents.

For more information or to request a dog license application, call 3-1-1 or visit nyc.gov/health.

Animals deemed vicious or threatening are forbidden on NYCHA property. To report dangerous dogs on NYCHA property call the Dog Hotline: 1 (888) 895-3647.

Partnership

(Continued from page 1)

land as she introduced Mayor Bloomberg. "In tough fiscal times he has fought the fight that's needed for our aging population."

The Mayor gave credit to DFTA's and NYCHA's Commissioners, respectively, by saying, "Eddie and Tino are the impetus behind these programs. They deserve the round of applause I got when I walked in." And he assured residents that, "This administration will do everything it can to continue to enhance the services we provide to seniors."

New York City's aging population is substantial and so is the Housing Authority's. Seniors comprise a full one-third of NYCHA's heads of households.

Chairman Hernandez spoke of the importance of seniors in public housing and of NYCHA's agreement with DFTA. "Seniors are our fastest growing population," he said. "NYCHA has 42 senior-only developments and 15 other senior buildings integrated in our public housing. We are delighted to make this financial commitment to help seniors."

Commissioner Mendez-Santiago called NYCHA's agreement with DFTA "a win-win situation for the City." The Commissioner then elaborated on the public service campaign being launched in cooperation with state and federal agencies and 11 community based organizations. The campaign's theme is, "Are You A Caregiver?"

Sponsored by DFTA through the National Caregivers Foundation, the campaign is designed to help people who are caregivers identify themselves as such and to



The Mayor shows off the present he received from Woodson Houses TA President Beatrice McNeil during the International Lunch.

provide them with information on how they can access specialized support services.

"One of the myths in our society is that our families are abandoning their older relatives and that is not the case," remarked the Commissioner. "In the U.S. and in New York, less than 10% of all elderly people are living in institutions or no longer living in their communities. With this program we will enhance the ability of caregivers to help their elderly relatives."

Before the press conference concluded, Woodson Houses Tenant Association President Beatrice

McNeil presented the Mayor with a gift, a giant teddy bear that was made in the seniors' sewing group. "I would like to present you with this token to thank you for the work you've done," Ms. McNeil told the Mayor. "Everyone is very grateful that you did not cut our program. We're happy and looking forward to your having lunch with us."

The Rosetta Gaston Senior Center alone serves over 265 NYCHA residents and other seniors from Brownsville every day. It is sponsored by the Wayside Baptist Church, Inc.

**The New York Urban League's
33rd Annual Football Classic**
For the Benefit of the William M. Young, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
& NYUJL Educational Programs

Hampton University vs. Morgan State University

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Hampton VS Morgan

Giants Stadium, Meadowlands, New Jersey

Saturday, September 27, 2003

2:00 PM

NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE

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Self-Sufficiency Incentive Exclusion

NYCHA wants all residents to know that it is entirely possible that when your income goes up your rent may not go up — at least for the first year after the increase. It is called the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Exclusion and residents who believe they qualify should talk to their Housing Assistants about it. Here is a very general idea of how the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Exclusion works:

For example, a member of the household gets a new job or a raise. In most cases, NYCHA will not raise your rent until the next annual review of your income. And there are still other cases in which NYCHA will not raise your rent for the first year after an income increase. These cases are: (1) if you had been unemployed for a year or longer before that new job, or; (2) if your increased earnings came while you were in a self-sufficiency or job training program, or (3) if you had been receiving public assistance benefits or services under any state program in the previous six months.

In all cases NYCHA will immediately calculate the income change, but will not necessarily increase your rent based on the first year's additional income. Moreover, for the next twelve-month period, that is the second year after the increase in income, NYCHA may calculate only half of that increase in your income review.

There is no limit on the number of times a family or a household member can benefit from this Self-Sufficiency Incentive.

As a resident of NYCHA you are eligible for public housing because your family meets the income requirements as prescribed by law. Every year, tenants must file a new Occupants' Affidavit of Income. At times during the year, however, in between the annual Affidavit of Income filing period, you must report any change of income — higher or lower — within 30 days of the change. This is also true if any member of your household gets a job or loses a job, or starts or stops receiving public benefits — Public Assistance, SSI or Social Security. But don't jump to conclusions. Just because you are reporting a change does not mean that you will become ineligible for NYCHA housing or that your rent will be increased sooner than your next annual review. In fact, this could all work to your advantage.

If, however, the opposite should happen and you lose your job, your income is severely reduced, or an income earning member of your household leaves, it is in your best interest to report this to your management office immediately, since you may be entitled to a rent reduction.

On the other hand, if you do not inform management of an increase, or if you misrepresent your income, your tenancy could be terminated and you could lose your apartment entirely.

In any case, talk to your Housing Assistant. NYCHA wants you to keep new earnings long enough to make the adjustment to a better lifestyle.

RIDGEWOOD BUSHWICK SENIOR PICNIC

The aroma of the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center Picnic floated over the fields of Sunken Meadow State Park on Long Island for the 31st consecutive year on July 24, 2003. Founded and hosted by New York State Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, the all-expense-paid day in the sun also featured live music, dancing, access to free health services and senior related information. A variety of volunteers, including NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Housing Authority executives, staff, New York City political and community leaders, manned the barbecues and prepared picnic trays for over 4,000 seniors who arrived in more than 80 buses from across New York City to feast on a steak lunch and chicken dinner. NYCHA sponsored 12 of those buses, bringing public housing seniors to the park for the festivities, which began at 10:00 A.M. and lasted until 5:00 P.M.

As in past years, the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council picnic is a summer event that brings out elected officials and celebrities. It has grown from a few hundred seniors and 15 volunteers in 1972 to over 4,000 older New Yorkers served by more than 200 volunteers.

Chairman Hernandez was joined by many NYCHA employ-



These seniors enjoyed the fare at the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center picnic held at Sunken Meadow on July 24, 2003. The event has grown from a few hundred seniors and 15 volunteers in 1972 to over 4,000 seniors and more than 200 volunteers.

ees, including Deputy General Managers Robert Podmore (Operations) and Hugh B. Spence (Community Operations), and Di-

rector of Brooklyn Borough Management, Gloria Finkelman. Assemblyman Lopez will host a second senior picnic on August 21st.

Public Hearing For Draft Agency Plan

(Continued from page 3)

The petition said the Super-Waiver would give the "NYC Housing Authority and the Governor the power to override current federal laws and regulations governing public housing." The SuperWaiver would allow State governors to propose five-year demonstration programs modifying elements of the public housing program. Although the bill has passed the house, the Senate has not taken action.

Other Issues/ Groups Represented

The Church of the Open Door in Brooklyn was well represented, its members easily identifiable by the blue and yellow t-shirts they wore. Members of YouthStay, which is a youth and development leadership organization of the tenant organization GOLES, or the Good Old Lower East Side, and the Legal Aid Society were also represented.

Despite their grievances, the public housing residents who attended the Public Hearing on the evening of July 16 left one single, strong impression. In the words of one elected official, "No one can say that ten-

ants don't care about their neighborhoods after seeing everyone here tonight."

NYCHA will take all comments into account in preparing a final version of the plan, which will be submitted to the RAB in August for final comments. NY-

CHA's response to those final comments will accompany the 2004 Agency Plan when it is submitted to HUD in the fall. If NYCHA does not hear from HUD within 75 days the Plan is considered to be approved.

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26TH ANNUAL SENIOR JUNE FESTIVAL AT OLYMPIC THEATER IN THE BRONX



NYCHA SENIORS kick up their heels at the old Savoy in Harlem in the musical "Memoirs — A Senior's Tale" at the June Festival.

By Deborah Williams

Hundreds of seniors from the five boroughs stepped onto their air-conditioned coach buses and headed toward The Olympic Theatre Concert Hall in the Bronx for an afternoon of what turned out to be a musical treat. It was a stroll down memory lane for the seniors as they watched the 26th Annual Senior June Festival entitled, "Memoirs — A Senior's Tale."

The performance was filled with tap dancing, rhythm and blues, and lots of glitter and gold. You could feel the excitement in the air as the audience applauded and the seniors joined the performers as they sang their favorite songs.

"Memoirs" opens as the seniors hit the lottery for one million dollars and begin a bus trip to Atlantic City to celebrate singing, "Oh Happy Day!". But before they get there, they stop at the legendary Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, shining at its finest hour, to the tune of, "This Joint is Jumpin'." With Al Phipps of Pelham Parkway Houses as Cab Calloway, Gloria Wilson of Gowanus Houses as Ella Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Porter of Sedgwick Houses as Josephine Baker, John Lide of Cooper Park Houses as Louis Armstrong, and Geri Brown of Wagner Houses as Billie Holiday, the stars made their way onto the stage singing some of their greatest hits.

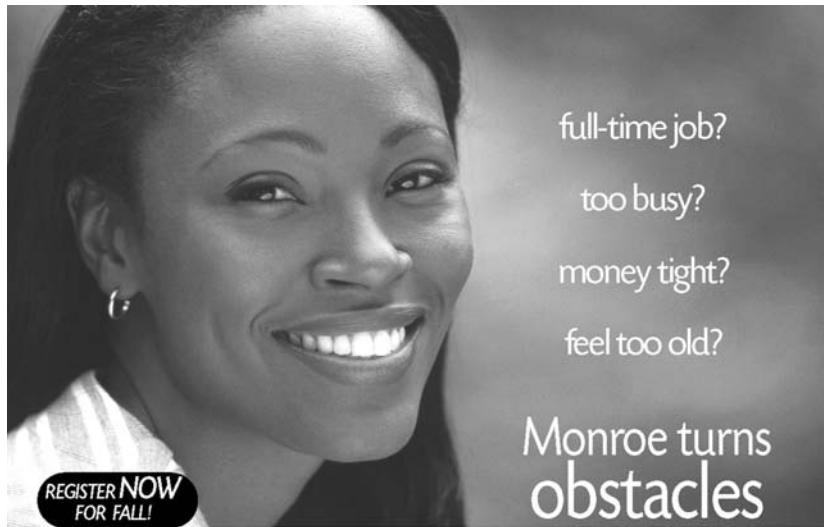
This year the Senior Festival was honored to have none other than R&B recording artist Maxine Brown as a member of its cast. Ms. Brown is known for her 1961 hit, "All in My Mind" and "Funny." The seniors seemed to have a terrific rapport with Ms. Brown that radiated on stage through their performances. If you missed Maxine Brown in "Memoirs" you might catch her in the "NYCHA Salutes Harlem" concert on 125th Street on August 21.

It was the excitement and prospect of listening to the music of legendary artists and seeing the seniors perform that drew in the audience, including NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, and Department of Community

Operations Citywide Programs Director Denise Falco-Lara.

"It was like a night out on Broadway. The show was uplifting and funny. I enjoyed it," said Chairman Hernandez.

The audience consisting mostly of seniors, praised the actors for their outstanding performances. Performing as background vocal singers were the LaGuardia Senior Center Choral Group and the NYCHA Senior Choir.



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